

# DX News

Since 1933. We know radio.

Volume 59, No. 1 - October 7, 1991 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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### CPC Test ...

**KCRV-1370** - P. O. Box 9 - Carruthersville, MO 63680 will present a special DX Test Monday morning October 28 at 0615 ELT. The test will include tones, music, Morse code, and voice. Address reports to Mr. Cleat Stanfill, General Manager. Arranged for the NRC by the Colorado CPC Machine.

**From the Publisher** ... I hope you like the new, cleaner look of DXN. I've changed some things not for just the sake of change, but to make the magazine more readable and legible as well as able to include more information for you. We'll be working with the regular columnists and other regular contributors so that the appearance of DXN is more uniform. For example, both this page and DDXD-E is set in 13-point Times. (reduced to 59% by the printer). On the other hand, I had to squash the index quite a bit to get it to fit, and it may not be as legible. The point is that we're trying to use the available technology to its utmost to bring you a better product while not raising dues. I'd appreciate some feedback from those whose eyes aren't as sharp as they used to be as to the legibility of DXN.

It looks as if we'll have access to an MS-DOS computer which can convert ASCII files from 5.25" disks to 3.5" disks. But we still need volunteer typists occasionally to type up material and save it to one of the following formats: MS-DOS 3.5" or 5.25" disks, in almost any Macintosh word processor (MS Works or Word, MacWrite II, WriteNow 2.2, or even TeachText), Commodore 64 (Mirage or ASCII), or Apple (5.25" or 3.5", Appleworks or ASCII). Accordingly, any contributions forthcoming in elite type will be held until we can retype it.

With the start of the new volume, I'd like to take a little space to say thanks to all NRC members for making the club the great organization it is. A special thanks also to those of you who have written thank-you notices to me in the past, although I must point out that

I really am more of a "filter" than anything else, and that the real gratitude should go to the column editors and other contributors who keep sending in material. Thanks also to those who send station logos and clippings. Nearly everything eventually finds its way to print. And, yes, I'm still having fun!

We're into the weeklies now, so crank up those receivers and report what's going on in DX land. Keep it current, though. 73 - pls.

### Remaining DXN Schedule, Volume 59

#	Deadline	Pub. Date	#	Deadline	Pub. Date
2.	Oct. 4	Oct. 14	11.	Dec. 6	Dec. 16
3.	Oct. 11	Oct. 21	12.	Dec. 13	Dec. 23
4.	Oct. 18	Oct. 28	13.	Dec. 27	Jan. 6
5.	Oct. 25	Nov. 4	14.	Jan. 3	Jan. 13
6.	Nov. 1	Nov. 11	15.	Jan. 10	Jan. 20
7.	Nov. 8	Nov. 18	16.	Jan. 17	Jan. 27
8.	Nov. 15	Nov. 25	17.	Jan. 24	Feb. 3
9.	Nov. 22	Dec. 2	18.	Jan. 31	Feb. 10
10.	Nov. 29	Dec. 9	19.	Feb. 7	Feb. 17

### DX Time Machine

#### From the pages of DX News

**50 years ago** ... from the Oct. 4, 1941 DXN: A list was published of the BCB stations in Australia and New Zealand. Also, one page of "Rules of the National Radio Club;" membership dues were \$2.00 per year.

**25 years ago** ... from the Oct. 1, 1966 DXN: Allen Merriman headed the CPC, Russ Edmunds the Verie Signers List, and Steve Weinstein, Contest. Dues were \$5.00 per year.

**10 years ago** ... from the Oct. 1, 1981 DXN: Tom Farmerie penned a request for information for the 50th NRC Anniversary book. Dues were \$18.00 per year.

# AM Switch

Status changes in AM stations, supplied by the FCC and listeners

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

Old call:				New call:
830	WKTX	OH	Cortland	WXTD
900	WBXT	OH	Canton	WCER
CFBR	ON	Sudbury	CHYC	
950	KRXA	AK	Seward	KSWD
1230	WEEX	PA	Easton	WODE
CFLK	ON	Kapuskasining	CHLK	
1340	KTEO	TX	San Angelo	KCRN
CFLH	ON	Heyst	CHOC	
1480	KDBN	TX	Dallas	KOMZ

## APPLICATIONS / GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

## APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1480 WCIN OH Cincinnati: reduce powers to 1000/114 watts, antenna to U1

## GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

None



P.O. Box 31130  
Shreveport, LA 71130-1130

## OTHERNESS

530 CIAO ON Brampton: station has been testing here even though CJFT is still operating on this frequency. Expect CIAO to move here from 790 kHz for good by the end of the year.

830 WKTX OH Cortland: station returned to the air 9-19 but was noted off all day 9-21, don't know what is exactly happening here but by the time this reaches you this station will be ON THE AIR. By the way, they were using this call, not the new WXTD as noted under Calls above.

KBUC TX Cibolo: silent for a few weeks, this station is ON THE AIR again.

900 WOOR TN Lebanon: station is SILENT

910 WQZZ TN Columbia: was silent as WCMG Lawrenceburg, TN, station is ON THE AIR from new city of license.

WWWR VA Roanoke: silent station is ON THE AIR

980 KICA NM Clovis: silent station is ON THE AIR

1120 WCGM TN Maryville: station is again SILENT

1220 KRGO CA Fowler: silent station is ON THE AIR

1490 WEQM FL Milton: silent station is ON THE AIR

WJOC TN Chattanooga: silent station is ON THE AIR (and features an all sports format, thus the new call)

1500 KRBK TX Boerne: station is SILENT after suffering major varmit-induced transmitter damage, may be off for several months.

Jerry Starr  
c/o WHOT Radio  
4040 Simon Road  
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

1550 WAAJ AL Huntsville: silent station is ON THE AIR but is maintaining a sporadic operating schedule. They operate on listener donations and are on the air only as funds permit.

1570 KTAT OK Frederick: station is SILENT

THANKS: John Bowker, Mike Riordan, Eugene Hinton, Dale Hamm and M Street Journal

73 and Good DX, Jerry & BKF Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

## DX News Index to Volume 58

If you read this index backward, will you get a special, sinister message? Regular weekly columns are not indexed. Titles are generic. Errors are regrettet. Numbers after titles refer to the number of the issue plus the page, pls.)

### Station Lists

College Sports Networks - Rick Lau - 2-11, 8-16, 22-23.  
Professional Sports Networks - Barry S. Finkel - 2-9, 8-15, 24-23, 26-28, 28-15.  
TIS Updates - Chris Cuomo - 2-14, 10-18, 18-21, 24-17.  
Steven Son Log - Gene Martin - 3-9.

Station Address Changes - Gayle Yeager - 10-3, 26-33.  
WSB-TV's Action News - 10-19.  
Metropolitan Opera - 11-21.  
NDBs - Bill Hale - 13-15.  
America on the Road - 19-15.  
Sports All Night - Bill Hale - 19-18.  
Monitor Radio - 20-3.  
Ohio Lottery - 23-39.  
Heaven's Peace Plan - Ken Onyschuk - 26-27.  
Family Radio Network - 26-27.  
U. of Iowa - 30-2.

### Antennas

NAB - Anti-Skywave - 2-13, 16-18.  
MW/T-2 Regen Tuner - Mark Connally - 20-12, 21-15, 22-18.  
What's Wrong with Present-Day Loop Antennas - Dallas Lankford - 23-25.

One-Foot Air-Core Loop - Dallas Lankford - 26-23, 29-41.  
Bevmaster - Mark Connally - 26-33.

Hawk Loop - Mike Hawk - 27-15.  
Interference-Reducing Antennas - Denzill Wright - 28-20.

Inverted-L Noise-Reducing MF/VLF Antenna - Dallas Lankford - 29-19.

RTU-I for Active Whips - Mark Connally - 29-22.

Super Booster Bar - Gerry Thomas - 29-37.

Loop Antenna Sensitivity - Dallas Lankford - 29-40.

LIL-3 - Dallas Lankford - 30-19.

### Products

Denon/NAB Superadio - 7-21.

Drake R8 - 26-41, Rob Keeney - 29-16.

R390A Audio Output Impedance Matching - Dallas Lankford - 6-19.

AM Stereo - Eric Bueneman - 8-19.

Hot-Rodding the 12-625 - Ray Cole - 29-45.

### Publications

Highlights of 1990 Convention - Ernie J. Wesołowski - 2-20.

Fixing up Nice Old Radios - Ed Romney - 2-23.

RD Magazines - 2-23.

Latin America By Radio - Henrik Klemetz - 8-2.

NRC FM Radio Log - 14-22.

1991 Shortwave Directory - 20-1.

Proceedings - 20-23, 1991 - 29-21.

1992 Log Book - 29-46.

### Propagation

Sunset DXing from the West Coast - Guy Kudlemeyer - 6-11.

### Domestic

CKYT - Tony Fitzherbert - 2-12.

Freeze on Nighttime Upgrade - 2-13.

DAB - 3-13, 5-13.

WOYK - 4-4.

CHMO - 4-17.

TIS-30, San Ysidro, CA - 4-23.

WTMJ - 5-13.

Three-letter Call - Thomas H. White - 5-14.

William S. Paley - 5-23.

WXNI - 5-23.

DIXing - 6-8.

CKWV - Tony Fitzherbert - 7-19.

KJLA - 8-2, 27-3.

KDKA - 8-13.

MTV/WSTT - 8-21.

One-Foot Air-Core Loop - Dallas Lankford - 26-23, 29-41.

Radio Archives - 9-10.

WEVD - 9-13.

WKLV - 9-22.

CHOK-1070 - Tony Fitzherbert - 11-20.

Hawk Loop - Mike Hawk - 27-15.

Interference-Reducing Antennas - Denzill Wright - 28-20.

Inverted-L Noise-Reducing MF/VLF Antenna - Dallas Lankford - 29-19.

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Super Booster Bar - Gerry Thomas - 29-37.

Loop Antenna Sensitivity - Dallas Lankford - 29-40.

LIL-3 - Dallas Lankford - 30-19.

CHYR - Tony Fitzherbert - 21-18.  
CPC Report - Wayne Heinen/Jeff Tynan - 11-13, 30-4.  
Financial Statement - Dick Truax - 12-23.

Products Order Form - 17-22.  
Audio Cassettes - 17-23.

NRC Ham List - Fred Vobbe - 19-17.

Bridgeport convention - 26-1, 27-1, 29-47.

Vol. 59 Schedule - 27-1.

Contests - George Sherman - 11-21, 22-21, 28-19.

DDXA - Don Erickson - 4-19.

GYDXA - William Hale - Update, 1-10, 1490 - 1-11, Don Lynch - 4-16, totals - 10-22, 1230 - 23-34, 1240 - 26-20, 1340 - 29-13.

Verification Signers - Wayne Heinen - 9-2, 14-9, 19-22, 24-25, 26-27, 29-16.

Bankers - Chris Cuomo - FL - 3-19, PEI - 7-21, PA - 10-21, NJ - 18-16.

Frequency Deviations - Raymond E. Cole - 3-21, 4-18, 8-20, 13-22.

Formats - Tony Fitzherbert - 2-7, 3-14, 4-12, 8-13, 10-14, 17-17, 18-14, 23-41, 25-18, 28-16.

DXChange - 4-2, 8-2, 29-1, 25-1, 26-1, 29-1.

Tower Tips - John S. Bowker - WJOB-3-23, WINC-3-23; R. Trinidad - 5-21; WIBC - 5-23.

KCRG - 6-18; KXIA - 6-20; WHNV - 6-23; WIMS - 11-19; WLC - 14-18; KKAR - 14-20; WSAM - 18-17; KCHF - 18-21; WTM - 18-3; KHFQ - 21-11; WRVN - 23-42.

The Answer Man - R. J. Edmunds - 2-21, 6-17, 13-13, 23-37.

For Beginners - Jack Woods/Mike Hawk - RF - 32-32, When to Listen, 26-24; Ground Wave Sky Wave, 29-17; Venies, 30-18.

Radio Roundup - Pete Kemp - 3-11, 4-15, 5-12, 7-12, 10-16, 13-12, 15-19, 17-18, 23-43, 27-14, 29-18.

Radio Waves - Laura McCusker - 10-17, 15-19, 23-44, 27-13, 28-14.

FM DXD - Todd Brandenburg - 23-40, 25-17, 26-26, 27-17, 28-13, 29-33, 30-17.

National Radio Club - Pittsburgh Convention - John R. Malicky - 1-8.

DXN Guidelines - Paul Swearingen - 1-20.

Vol. 57 Index - Paul Swearingen - 1-22.

MWDX Special - Best Catches - Bill Hale - 5-8.

NRC Abbreviations - 9-17.

Miscellaneous - ANARC - Sheldon Harvey - 11-21.

AICEP - Sheldon Harvey - 18-1.

John Bardeen - 20-11.

Area Codes - Mike Hawk - 23-23.

Sparky - Karl Firth - 23-32.

Marconi Award to Pete Kemp - 28-14.

Yvonne Daniels - 28-23.

# Domestic DX Digest - East

*DX Catches in the Eastern U. S. and Canada, with 24-hr. ELT*

## MEDIUM WAVE AM BLINGS

- Some great loggings were received here too late for last issue, and would have been way too old for this issue, so have been edited out. It's unfortunate this happens. My deadlines are clearly made known to one and all. Loggings which will be older than six weeks at date of **DX News** publication are edited out. Actually, I'm pushing it with a few this time. Arghhh.
- Thanks to **Dave Evans** of Brossard, Quebec, I have in my hot little hands (actually in the cassette player) a recording of a few moments of what was CFCF's final hours . . . as CFCF. Dave notes that CFCF was possibly North America's first radio station, with history going back to 1919. CIQC (the new calls) will be Montreal's first full-time country station since about 20 years ago. A few more details in Special below. Thanks for the news and the tape, Dave! By the way, Dave drove to the U.S. to mail the envelope (strike up there, you know) and it got here in two days!! I heard the comment on Radio Canada that the reason postage is so high there is that they charge for storage.
- Just received my new **NRC Radio Log**. It's a dandy! Get yours today. And yes, I paid full price for it.
- **Rick Dau** is having a GTG (that means *get together* for the uninitiated) in Sioux City, Iowa on October 25 and 26. Watch for more details from Rick, but plan now to attend.

## SPECIAL

- 600 CIQC PQ MONTREAL - 9/9 0001 has changed to these CLs and C&W mx (ex:CFCF and NOS); they have dropped Larry King overnight in favor of the music format; the ratings were not what the owners wanted, and with C&W are targeting a new demographics, per Montreal's *Gazette* (DE-PQ)
- 790 KKBQ TX HOUSTON - new format is **Easy Country** (GK-TX)  
KFYO TX LUBBOCK - 9/10 2232 ID as **79 Stereo, KFYO**, Log doesn't indicate \$ (MH-NE)
- 800 WDSC SC DILLON - has been running ETs since 8/3 @ various times of the day, 1000 watts day/500 PSA & 382 night; sked will likely be NSP once it gets on RS (likely by the time you read this; I know, I rebuilt this one-hi! (DS-DE)
- CKLW ON WINDSOR - now carries NBC News at :00 (REH-ON)  
KJOJ TX CONROE - heard simulcasting KJOJ-FM (GK-TX)  
900 WKDW VA STAUNTON - 9/12 0230 is now on the IRN with **The Fred Sanders Show**; unn. (REH-ON)
- 1040 WMTX FL PINELLAS PARK - 9/6 2035 good in WHO null with AC and contest promo mentioning *The phrase that pays: Mix 96 means music*, legal ID a little early @ 2053: **WMTX-FM Clearwater, WMTX-AM Pinellas Park**; ex: WHBO (REH-ON)
- 1190 KJLA MO KANSAS CITY - 9/8 0710 not silent anymore; hrd ID and NOS (MH-NE)
- 1210 WKNX MI FRANKENMUTH - 9/5 1300-1400 with BBD, now simulcasting full time with FM sister WGMZ; legal IDs now include both stns (TS-MI2)
- 1460 WXEM GA BUFORD - 9/9 1945 poor but alone in EE with dual sign-off for WXEM and WAOS-1600 in Austell, GA; format is now SS; ex: WLKQ (REH-ON)
- 1480 KDBN TX DALLAS - now programming **Transtar EZL** mx; possibly a change of CL forthwith since "DBN" obviously meant *Dallas Business News* (GK-TX)
- 1500 KJIM TX SHERMAN - 9/12 1930 new sign-off IDs **Sherman-Denison** with **KJIM Gospel Radio** is owned by **H.E.S.A. (?) Inc.** It's broadcast towers located at Radio Center on Woodlake Road between Sherman and Denison. KJIM is owned and operated by Wilson Broadcasting on an assigned frequency of 1500 kHz with a power of 1000 watts with studio offices located at Austin College in Sherman; phone # for that college is 214-893-3916 (JB-TX)
- KOTH/BLEE**  
FM 97.7 AM 1480  
Ottumwa

## William Hale

734 Burleson  
San Marcos, TX 78666-4335

KANI

1530 WWGZ  
1590 WCZN

TX WHARTON - 9/15 1934 format change from **C&W** to **GOS**; ID is *The new inspirational station, we're Great Gospel KANI 1500 AM* (JB-TX)  
MI LAPEER - 9/6 1600-1700 with **C&W**; is now **Country Gold 1530**, no longer || 103.1 FM, all-live, locally-originated programs (great!) (TS-MI2)  
PA CHESTER - sked is now 0600-2100, unless they have a local remote which runs past that time (DS-DE)

530 CJRN?

**KTWA**

Ottumwa

580 UNID  
970 UNID  
1120 WBIS  
1260 WNDE  
1590 UNID

## UNIDS AND UNID HELP

ON - 9/15 0355 MUZAK-type mx, with stronger signal than usually heard from CJFT; 0400 *This is radio station CJRN* loud and clear; Log sez CJRN is in St. Catherines on 710, only a few miles from Fort Erie: disappeared shortly after call ID; anyone know something about this? (JH-PA) [CJFT relays some of CJRN's programming on 530 - Ed.]  
?? - 8/31 0105-0125 oldies with *The Great 58* heard (BP-NC)  
?? - 8/12 0210 weak with satellite AdCon || KCJJ-1560 (RD-IA)  
CT BRISTOL - this is **Chuck Reh's** mystery station from the August 26th issue; they are listed on the 1991 Sports Final network (RD-IA)  
IN INDIANAPOLIS - is **Scott Barnett's** Q-95 unID of 8/1 (Issue 29); is || WFBQ(FM)-94.7 mornings (REH-ON)  
?? - 8/23 2140 weak with **Dallas Cowboys** FB; anyone in the Lone Star State know who this might be? (RD-IA) [I wouldn't ID either if I were them carrying the Cowgirls, hi - Ed.]

1280 CFYZ

**TIS AND OTHER STUFF**  
ON PEARSON INT'L AP - has moved here from 530; signs on hwys to airport changed, but haven't heard them here yet (DT-ON)

550 WDUN

580 WBIL  
590 WMBS  
680 WODZ

740 WIAC

800 KREI

830 WCCO

860 CJBC

940 WINZ

980 KDSJ  
1010 WINS

CFRB

1050 KMTA

1260 KTTS

1310 WTUX

1320 KLWN  
CJMR

1330 WFBL

1370 KALN  
KWRT

## MIDNIGHT TO 0800 HOURS ELT

GA GAINESVILLE - 9/3 0028 **WDUN**, Gainesville, your local news and information leader, **Larry King** - ads and promos; over WKRC (BP-NC)  
AL TUSKEGEE - 8/27 0103 good with UC (BP-NC)  
PA UNIONTOWN - 8/31 0104 wx, ads - BBD mx (BP-NC)  
TN MEMPHIS - 9/8 0723 ID as *Memphis' Good Time Oldies Station*, no CLs hrd (MH-NE)  
PR SAN JUAN - 9/2 0450 SS mx and announcements; at 0500 heard plainly *This is WIAC San Juan* in EE; SS announcements and mx followed until 0510 fadeout (JH-PA)  
MO FARMINGTON - 9/9 0206 up briefly with **KREI News Headlines**, all items were state and local; local CKLW was off 'til 0231 (REH-ON)  
MN MINNEAPOLIS - 9/17 0620 with **Dr. Lynch** on call-in show mentioned a topic *Deep in the files of WCCO's computer. . . - Wall Street Journal Report*; KBUC off with XR problem (JB-TX)  
ON TORONTO - 9/13 0020-0130 fair with continuous CLA mx format; anncts in FF *Radio Froncals*, *Radio Canada . . . Toronto* (TB-OH)  
FL MIAMI - 8/27 0110-0115 nx - ads; **All News, All Day, 940 WINZ** (pronounced Wins) (BP-NC)  
SD DEADWOOD - 9/7 0000 CHR mx, then sign-off (MH-NE)  
NY NEW YORK - 9/14 0320-0350 came in as strong QRM to CFRB; all-news radio with national & NYC-area news; poor (TB-OH)  
ON TORONTO - 9/14 0305-0350 humorous call-in talk show with QRM from WINS (TB-OH)  
MT KINSEY - 9/7 0006 C&W followed by wx; very strong (MH-NE)  
MO SPRINGFIELD - 9/16 0630 in/out under XEL with **This KTTS newscast brought to you by Mr. Ed's Mufflers, 2006 W. Division** (JB-TX)  
IN INDIANAPOLIS - 9/9 0435-0455 **MoYL** all day, all night new **WTUX**; poor (DT-ON)  
KS LAWRENCE - 8/22 0702 fair with SSB and sign-on info (RD-IA)  
ON MISSISSAUGA - 9/14 0124-0205 **Music Radio**, ROK mx request pgm including Canadian rock 'n roll (TB-ON)  
SC GREENVILLE - 9/9 0410-0430 Talknet, promo Carolina talk news radio **1310 WFBL Greenville** and **910 WORD Spartanburg**; poor (DT-ON)  
KS IOLA - 9/8 0740 C&W mx and ID; mixing with loud unID str (MH-NE)  
MO BOONEVILLE - 9/8 0749 sign-on with SSB; new (MH-NE)

1400 KVRP TX STAMFORD - 9/17 0732 station promo, license #s of cars with a KVRP bumper sticker announced - owner has 5 minutes to call station and win cash (JB-TX)  
 1500 KSTP MN ST. PAUL - 9/17 0602 in/out of XEAI; discussing state lottery on AM 15 KSTP - vitamin ad for General Nutrition Center; KBRN silent (JB-TX)  
 1580 WEAM KOKB GA COLUMBUS - 9/9 0601 caught bits and pieces of sign-on (MH-NE)  
 OK BLACKWELL - 9/8 0729 ID and local ads; 1st time hrd in a long time (MH-NE)  
 1590 WQQW CT WATERBURY - 9/5 0020-0058 OLD, Platters, ID 0058 woman ann WQQW Weather, poor over/under WONX (DT-ON)  
 WONX IL EVANSTON - 9/5 0020-0100 SS mx and talk, sign-off at 0100 in EE, in from fade and caught ...2100 Lee Street, Evanston, Illinois, over/under WQQW, WAKE way in back (DT-ON)  
 WZRX MS JACKSON - 9/14 0124 NOS/MoYL mx and ID as AM 1590, Jackson, new (MH-NE)

**0800 TO 1600 HOURS ELT**

560 WIND IL CHICAGO - 9/5 1100-1200 La Tremenda with SS; hrd 6 miles south of Saginaw; both WIND and WHND heard with 4's on the 2010 meter by turning the radio (TS-MI1)  
 870 WKAR MI EAST LANSING - 9/14 1500-1600 with NPR pgm with a journalist speaking at the national Press Club about the role of the Soviet [unreadable copy -Ed.] for democracy, faint & noisy (TB-OH)  
 WVIK Public Radio Rock Island, IL

**1600 TO 2400 HOURS ELT**

540 WGTO FL CYPRESS GARDENS - 8/22 2250 oldies; fair - good, over/under WSTH (BP-NC)  
 WSTH GA COLUMBUS - 8/21 2240 C&W with good signal; *In the heart of Dixie and proud of it*, WSTH AM & FM, also *South 106* mentioned (BP-NC)  
 620 WRJZ TN KNOXVILLE - 9/16 2125 fair with *Focus on the Family* to 0130; . . . Joy 62 WJRZ ads for *Eastern Training, Blunt(?)Discount Pharmacy, Days Inn* in Gatlinburg; WTMJ QRM (HF-MI)  
 630 CFCO ON CHATHAM - 9/15 2155 good with *Back to God Hour* then *People's Gospel Hour @ 0202* (HF-MI)  
 850 WRMR OH CLEVELAND - 9/16 2139 fair with *The entertainment's on us, Warm 850 WRMR, MoYL* (HF-MI)  
 890 KVOZ TX LAREDO - 9/6 2330 ID and CHR mx; always fun to hear this one (MH-NE)  
 940 CBM PQ MONTREAL - 9/13 2300-0010 noisy reception with CBC Radio Net; *That Time of the Night* CLA mx variety pgm (TB-OH)  
 990 WEEB NC SOUTHERN PINES - 8/27 2358 Talknet - ABC News, wx at 0005, back - Talknet; rare over here, very solid over WIVK! (BP-NC)  
 WIVK TN KNOXVILLE - 9/16 2050 good with *Vols Talk* sports call-in @ 800-688-6857 with *Bob & Mike*; . . . the flagship station of the Vols Radio Network; female with wx @ 0100 and C&W mx at 0101; ads for *Hammers(?)Discount Store, Fidelity Federal, Nissan* dealer in Oak Ridge (HF-MI)  
 1040 WHBO FL PINELLAS PARK - 9/6 2135 ID and CHR mx followed by ads for Tampa/St. Pete area stores; new (MH-NE)  
 1070 WSCP NY SANDY CREEK - PULASKI - 8/15 2005-2020 C&W woman ann ...WSCP...; over CHOK (DT-ON)  
 CHOK ON SARNIA - 9/15 2210 good with *Home Town Radio CHOK*; 60s/70s ROK (HF-MI)  
 1090 WCAR MI LIVONIA - 9/3 2058 very good with possibly Urdu & EE chanting; mention of *Pakistan & Detroit's Info Station, AM 1090 WCAR Livonia*; nx in EE @ 0100 (HF-MI)  
 1150 WTAW TX COLLEGE STATION - 9/10 ID and *Astros* BB (MH-NE)  
 1230 WCOL OH COLUMBUS - 9/15 2215 poor with *Columbus' All-Weekend Radio-Cool 92*, OLD, OH #50 (HF-MI)  
 WBPZ PA LOCK HAVEN - 9/2 2155-2212 remote for Labour Day, ment fireworks, contest, draw then OLD request and dedication show; poor, over/under unID with talk (DT-ON)  
 1260 WRDZ OH CLEVELAND - 9/3 good with *Night Line* with *Angela Jesus Rock* mx; over/under WNDE? with *Reds* BB (HF-MI)

1280 WQUE LA NEW ORLEANS - 9/7 2146 IS as *Q-93* (MH-NE)  
 1290 KLEH IA ANAMOSA - 8/26 2105 fair with *KC Royals* BB on the evening of Brett Saberhagen's no-hitter (RD-IA)  
 1310 WMTG MI DEARBORN - 9/3 2120 fair with *Request Classics, Classic Soul, AM 1310 WMTG*, call 313-584-WMTG (HF-MI)  
 1340 WSTV OH STEUBENVILLE - 9/14 2335-0008 OLD, sign-off 0008, legal ID America poor over/under 2-3 unIDs; not 24 hours as in Log (DT-ON)  
 1350 WSLR OH AKRON - 9/4 2127 very good with *Whistler 1350 WSLR*, C&W mx (HF-MI)  
 1370 WWCB PA CORRY - 8/10 2045-2106 music *WWCB--top 40* nx, poor (DT-ON)  
 1390 WCGO IL CHICAGO HEIGHTS - 9/3 2135 good with promo for concert at the Regal Theater; AM 1390, *Thanks for making us your number one choice... you're listening to the music you grew up with -- Dusty 1390*, soul mx; very "tight" with call IDs (HF-MI)  
 1400 WAMQ PA LORETTO - 8/5 2058-2200 *Pirates* vs *Phillies* on Pirate network; ID at 2200 1400 WAMQ over/under WABY; poor (DT-ON)  
 1450 WRJM CT POQUONOCK - 8/26 2359 noted saying ...nothing happened today so there isn't any news, ID and sign-off w/GSQ; when passing through the area this past summer, they were noted running *The Best of Rush Limbaugh* but the tape seemed to be blank and there was nothing on it! This must be some operation! (DS-DE)  
 1460 WXOK LA BATON ROUGE - 8/23 2154 good w/UC mx and *WXOK* ID (RD-IA)  
 WXOK LA BATON ROUGE - 9/15 2202 ID and UC mx, with KGGO and 2 other dominant stations (MH-NE)  
 1490 WSIR FL WINTER HAVEN - 8/24 2120-2200 OLD, 2132 ...on *WSIR*..., very poor, int unID with baseball! (DT-ON)  
 WBEX OH CHILlicothe - 9/4 *Reds* vs *Expos* ppp, end of game, local ads, over and under WNBT (DT-ON)  
 WNBT PA WELLSBORO - 9/4 2021-2034 ppp of *Phillies-Astros* bb, local ads, over/under WBEX and unID; poor (DT-ON)  
 1560 WCNW OH FAIRFIELD - 9/9 1930 heard call ID with location given as Hamilton, ✓ of map shows Fairfield only 4 miles south of Hamilton; behind WQXR after WAGL sign-off (JH-PA)  
 WAGL SC LANCASTER - 9/9 1900 first break of WQXR dominance of this frequency; sign-off clearly heard behind a very weak WQXR (JH-PA)  
 1570 KMYZ OK PRYOR - 9/10 2028 ID as *The hot new Z-104.5* and wx; lost at :30; new (MH-NE)

**REPORTERS**

RD-IA RICK DAU/Iowa City, IA/R-1000 and Radio West Loop  
 BP-NC BILL PRATHER, KC4KMG/Tryon, NC/Kenwood TS-4305 + 4' loop  
 DE-PQ DAVE EVANS//Brossard, PQ//DX-440, TM-152\$, Sony SRFA-1\$, Chryco Caradio\$  
 DS-DE DAVE SCHMIDT//Wilmington, DE//HQ-180A, SM2  
 DT-ON DON TRELFFORD//Scarborough, ON//  
 TS-Mix TOM SANDERS/M1 = Price Nature Center near Saginaw, MI or M12 = Davison, MI//ICF-2010  
 REH-ON CHARLES REH//Leamington, ON//R-390A + Sanserine Loop + TR-3000 open reel tape recorder  
 JH-PA JACK HORNER/Lancaster, PA//ICF-2010 barefoot  
 TB-OH TONY BERNHOFFER/Toledo, OH//Pioneer SK 550 Boombox + homemade loop  
 HF-MI HAROLD FRODGE//Midland, MI//R71A + Arcomm AP-4 antenna tuner + 185' wire  
 MH-NE MIKE HAWK/N0OSY//Omaha, NE//R-1000, HQ-180AC + 2' loop  
 GK-TX GARY KETTLER//Austin, TX//  
 JB-TX JIM BOEHM/San Antonio, TX//ICF-2010 + Dual Tunable Audio Filter  
 Ed.-TX Ye Editor, N5SZC//San Marcos, TX//no relation to the captain of the *Minnow*

**KFAB**  
AM/STEREO ELEVEN

**ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL SYMBOLS USED IN DDXD-E**

||:parallel with or to - :to or into :00 on the hour AC:adult contemporary AP:Associated Press BBD:big band BRN:Business Radio Net C&W:country & western CHR:contemporary hit radio CID:code ID CL:call letter ContChr:contemporary Christian EZL:easy listening EE:English FF:French GOS:gospel IRN:Interstate Radio Net jx:jingle LSK:local sunrise LSS:local sunset MLB:Major League Baseball mx:music nx:news NPR:National Public Radio OC:open carrier ppp:play-by-play PSFA:pre-sunrise authority PSSA:post-sunset authority QRM:man-made interference QRN:natural interference QTH:location REL:religious ROK:rock 'n roll RS:regular schedule \$:stereo SID:singing ID SRS:sunrise skip SS:Spanish SSB:Star Spangled Banner SSS:sunset skip TC:time check TT:test tones UC:urban contemporary UPI:United Press International wx:weather

73. B.C.

# International DX Digest

**Foreign DX Catches. Times are UTC; for ELT, subtract 5 hrs.**

Mark Connolly made it just under the IDX deadline wire with his loggings from Rockport. It's nice to see some Africa loggings. See if you can find the one logging he didn't submit!

Deadline for all loggings is the Saturday before the Friday deadline in Topeka.

Jim

## PAN-AMERICAN

640t **GUADELOUPE** Arnouville 0003 9/12. FF talk by man, most likely Guadeloupe. Eastern Caribbean cx good at the time. [MC-MA]

670 **CUBA R.** Rebeldia 0417 7/22. Sonido Rebelde slogan, SS pop mx. [MC-MA]

705t **ST. VINCENT** 0413 7/22. Open carrier at this time. [MC-MA]

740t **PUERTO RICO** San Juan 232B 9/11. WIAC suspected w/SS talk, mx about Puerto Rico and Dominican Rep. [MC-MA]

760 **CUBA R.** Reloj 0155 7/23. Reloj program in jumble. [MC-MA]

780 **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS** Roadtown, Tortola 0007 9/12. ZBVI good at times w/calypso mx, Carib EE DJ w/echo chamber. Battling R. Coro and other unID SS. [MC-MA]

800 **NETH. ANTILLES** Bonaire 0009 9/12. FJB good w/EE religious talk; o/SS LA's. [MC-MA]

810 **COLOMBIA** Bogota 040B 7/22. HJCY atop channel w/Colombian mx (frequent Bogotá mentions). [MC]

825 **ST. KITTS** Basseterre 2313 9/11. Fair to good w/preaching in EE. [MC-MA]

830 **VENEZUELA** San Antonio de los Altos 0403 7/22. YVLT noted w/Venezuelan anthem and s/off o/u Canadian. [MC-MA]

880t **VENEZUELA** 0011 9/12. Caracas likely w/SS talk mixing w/WCBS. [MC-MA]

895 **NEVIS** 0012 9/12. Poor w/pop mx. [MC-MA]

910t **VENEZUELA** Maiquetia 0015 9/12. SS mx w/mentions of Venezuelan cities; no ID given. [MC-MA]

## Jim Renfrew

61 Wilcox Street  
Rochester, NY 14607-3832

## TRANS-ATLANTIC

702 **unID** 2358 9/11. Het during Africa-only TA cx. [MC-MA]

765 **SENEGAL** Dakar 2304 9/11. Fair w/AA-sounding chant. Semi-AU cx tonight, only Africans in. [MC-MA]

1179 **unID** 2342 9/11. Strong het during African opening. Audio lost to ORM from SS LA (Ven?) on 1180. [MC-MA] (not much listed - Jim)

1197 **unID** 2346 9/11. Het during African opening. First thought is Agadir, Morocco, but Algeria 891 was barely noticeable so maybe it's a considerably farther south African. [MC-MA] (seems like a high power BBC relay came on in Southern Africa this year, not sure of frequency - Jim)

1349t **MAURETANIA** 2318 9/11. Het, too much WLNH-1350 slop for audio. [MC-MA]

1404 **GUINEA** Conakry 2348 9/11. FF talk, poor in WIDE-1400 slop. [MC-MA]

1467 **FRANCE** Roumoules 0409 8/8. Potent OC. >>> 8/12: classical mx at low audio level on big carrier. [MC-MA]

1548t **SPAIN** 0406 8/8. Bits of classical mx. [MC-MA]

1566 **SWITZERLAND** Sarnen 0359-0400 8/8. Alpine mx, polkas, dixieland jazz, then GG talk, good. >>> 0354 8/12: Alpine accordion mx, woman in GG, good. [MC-MA]

1593 **GERMANY** Langenburg 0258 8/10. Male GG vocal, fair in slop. [MC-MA]

## CONTRIBUTORS

[MC-MA] Mark Connolly WA1ION, after-work DXpedition to Rockport MA (Granite Pier site), Sony 2010, MFJ 1024 active whip w/RTU-1 and MWT-2 regen. tuner [JR-NY] Jim Renfrew, Rochester, NY HQ-150, SM-1, Sony 2010

WKAQ-San Juan, WMNT-Monati, WKJB-Morales, WABA-Aguadilla, WBBS-Ponce, WHO-Yaqui, WPSS-San Sebastián, WGDL-Lares, WJTY-Quebradillas, WMSW-Hatillo.



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# Formats

**Tony Fitzherbert**  
356 Jackman Avenue  
Fairfield, CT 06430-1728

## Changes in programming status; reported by listeners

Welcome to the early Fall edition of Formats. Here in Fairfield County, WADS - 690 has returned to the air with a Portuguese format, ID'ing as "Radio Portugal" and "Radio Romantica" for the absolute lack of folks of that ethnic group in Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton. Now three of the four Bridgeport area AM stations are ethnic, with WCUM - 14350 full service Spanish, WDJZ - 1530 automated Spanish and Portuguese, and WADS. WICC - 600 is the only English AM station in Bridgeport. And less than ten miles away in Hamden, local WXCT - 1220 has dumped its BRN Business News for Hispanic programming for the large Spanish population in New Haven.

And as noted on our annual vacation, most AM stations north of Boston are either automated, satellite fed (cuts down on the personnel bill), or relays for FM stations. They are, for the most part, quite boring. And as Eric Bueneman notes in a letter, many of these stations do NOT offer the unique services needed by the local cultures and towns up in these parts. If I own a small business in Berlin, NH, Brattleboro, VT, or Lewiston, ME, I am going to buy time on a satellite - fed radio station? Come on, now! I would go for FM or the local paper.

The M Street Journal notes that WMNT - 1520, in Garden City, GA is silent and for sale, CHEAP, as they could not hire a staff. And the same publication noted that WYUT-1420, Herkimer, NY, is silent, being evicted from their studios while they were on the air!

Our contributors are the M Street Journal, Eric Bueneman, Al Holtz, Mike Hawk, your editor, while on vacation, and new contributors Mitchell Scott Paul and Morris Sorensen. Morris and Eric likewise bring us Dial Scans from Winnipeg, Gainesville, GA, and the northern Atlanta suburbs. And your editor Dial Scans Portland, ME and the Bridgeport - New Haven, CT area. Here we go.

550 KUSA MO St Louis	- CWM "Country Five" (MP).
550 WDEV VT Waterbury	- Full service AC with live announcers (TF).
560 WHBQ TN Memphis	- CWM days, rock nights (M).
560 WEAZ PA Philadelphia	- automated EZL as of 9-15, "WISH-AM" (AH).
580 KANA MT Anaconda	- CWM//FM (M).
590 WLVA VA Lynchburg	- SMN Adult Standards (M).
600 KIIX CO Wellington	- "60 - Kicks" (MP).
600 WMT IA Cedar Rapids	- Nostalgia (MP).
600 KERB TX Kermit	- Silent (M).
610 KDAL MN Duluth	- Oldies (MP).
610 KDFM MO Kansas City	- CWM (MP).
620 CUCI BC Prince George	- CWM (M).
620 KGW OR Portland	- AC/Jazz//KINK(M).
630 KJNO AK Juneau	- Unis AC (M).
660 WVAL MN Sauk Rapids	- "Rockin' 101"//FM (MP).
660 KQSR ND Williston	- CWM/News/talk (MS).
680 WRMD FL St Petersburg	- Spanish (M).
680 KFEQ MO St Joseph	- "Newsradio 68" (MP).
680 KVCM MY East Helena	- Religion (M).
700 WCAT MA Orange	- Sun Talk (M).
730 WSTT GA Thomasville	- Silent (M).
730 WJTO ME Bath	- SMN Kool Gold (TF).
740 WLVG MA Needham	- This old radio station, formerly WCAS - Cambridge, is silent (M) and (TF).
740 WIRJ TN Humboldt	- CWM (M).
740 WDFZ TN Tullahoma	- SMN Standards (M).
740 WRPX WI Hudson	- Variety, CWM, sports (MP).
760 WVNE MA Leichester	- Religion, satellite-fed (TF).
770 WWCN FL North Fort Meyers	- CNN Headline News (M).
770 NEW MO St. Louis	- Back to big bands (EB).
790 WTAR VA Norfolk	- All news (M).
800 KNKK UT Brigham City	- SMN Kool oldies (M).
810 WJXL AL Jacksonville	- 2nd 50,000 watt station in US to go silent!! (EB).
810 WBIC GA Royston	- AC (M).
810 WSYW IN Indianapolis	- Classical weekdays //FM, rap "Yo-8-1-h" on weekends (M). Yech! (TF).
860 WDMG GA Douglas	- SMN CHR //FM (M).
880 WBKZ GA Jefferson	- Urban contemporary (EB).
880 WINU IL Highland	- Big Band/Nostalgia (EB).
880 CKLQ MB Brandon	- CWM (MS).
910 WNHV VT White River Jct.	- News/talk (TF).
920 WPTX MD Lexington Park	- AC, talk after 0930 (M).
930 WREB MA Holyoke	- News/talk (TF).



930 KOGA NE Ogallala	- AC(MH).
940 KSWM MO Aurora	- Silent (M).
950 KNFT NM Bayard	- Unis CWM (M).
960 KLTF NM Little Falls	- Oldies, farm info (MP)..
960 WKZA PA Kane	- Reported silent (M).
970 KQAQ MN Austin	- Almost silent, Sundays only 0700-1400 (M).
970 KBBT OR Portland	- New wave/dance "970-The Beat" (EB).
980 WBBE KY London	- Silent (M).
980 WYFN TN Nashville	- BRN Bus. News/Religion (EB).
990 WHIA GA Dawson	- Silent (M).
990 CKIS PQ Montreal	- Oldies (M).
990 KSVP NM Artesia	- News/talk (M).
1000 KNDA TX Odessa	- Silent (M).
1000 WTKA AL Huntsville	- CHR/AOR (EB).
1000 WCMX MA Leominster	- Oldies (TF).
1010 KCHJ CA Delano	- Spanish (M).
1030 KBUF KS Holcomb	- CWM/farm info (MH).
1040 WMTX FL Pinellas Park	- AC//FM (M).
1040 WJOR TN St Joseph	- Silent (M).
1050 WNTP MD Silver Spring	- Brokered talk/ethnic (M).
1050 KLOH MN Pipestone	- EZL/oldies (MP).
1060 WAMT FL Titusville	- Silent (M).
1080 WFTD GA Marietta	- Skyline religion on weekends, "light contemporary Christian" on weekdays (EB).
1080 WXLN KY Louisville	- Religion (EB).
1080 KYMN MN Northfield	- CWM/FM (MP).
1080 KRLD TX Dallas	- "News 1080" (MP).
1090 KAAY AR Little Rock	- Religion (MP).
1090 KBYG CO Aurora	- Sports/talk (MH).
1100 WYKR VT Wells River	- Satellite CWM // FM in Haverhill, NH (TF).
1110 WBT NC Charlotte	- News/talk - CBS, BRN (EB).
1110 WNNW NH Salem	- All Spanish, dumps motivational talk (M).
1130 WBZL IN Brazil	- Unis, CNN News (M).
1130 KFAN MN Minneapolis	- All sports, ex-WDGY (M).
1150 WZBQ AL Tuscaloosa	- CHR/oldies // FM "Z-102" (EB).
1150 CKX MB Brandon	- Rock/AC (MS).
1150 KDEF NM Albuquerque	- All sports (M).
1160 WVNJ NJ Oakland	- Satellite-fed 1950's and 1960's music and full service for Bergen County, NJ, start up in Fall 1991, when 5 towers are erected next to the Oakland compost heap (Al Holtz).
1170 WARW NY Cornwall	- Hudson - Still silent (TF).
1170 KVOO OK Tulsa	- CWM "Big Country" (MP).
1190 KKOJ MN Jackson	- CWM, CNN (MP).
1220 WSME ME Sanford	- Format this wear is Sun Talk (TF).
1220 WKBK NH Keene	- Talk (TF).
1220 WTCN MN Stillwater	- Reported Silent (M)..
1230 WMOU NH Berlin	- All satellite oldies, except live 0600-0930, A(i) news (TF).
1230 KSTC CO Sterling	- CWM (MH).
1230 WFOM GA Marietta	- Silent after 44 years. (EB).
1230 WSSO MS Starkville	- AC/oldies //FM (M).
1230 WTSV NH Claremont	- Satellite standards (TF).
1230 KHSH OR Coos Bay	- SMN Standards (M).
1230 KSYM MN Mankato	- Oldies, SNN (MP).
1230 WSTJ VT St Johnsbury	- CHR (TF).
1230 WAMM VA Woodstock	- CWM (M).
1240 WGGA GA Gainesville	- Drops Sun Talk for nostalgia (EB).
1240 WTME ME Lewiston	- Religion//WKTQ - 1450 (TF).
1240 KJLT NE North Platte	- EZL/AC (MH).
1250 KURB AR Little Rock	- Rock/AC//FM (M).
1250 WMTR NJ Morristown	- Adult standards, drops BRN Business News, probably to head off competition from WVNJ (TF).
1260 KDVZ MN Hutchinson	- CWM, A(i). (MP).
1270 WBZS FL Eatonville	- UC/Talk (M).
1270 WTSN NH Dover	- AC/CWN (TF).
1280 WTMY FL Sarasota	- BRN Business News (M).
1280 WABK ME Gardner	- AC/CHR//FM (TF).
1280 KRAM TX Morton	- Silent (M).
1290 WKNE NH Keene	- Adult standards (TF).
1300 WYTL IN Terre Haute	- Silent (M).
1310 KIQQ CA Barstow	- AC/Talk // KUUQ (M).
1310 KRBI MN St. Peter	- Oldies, EZL (MP).
1330 WRCA MA Waltham	- Drops its show tunes for Spanish and ethnic programming (M and TF).
1340 WDME ME Dover-Foxcroft	- Silent (M).
1340 WDCR NH Hanover	- Rock, Dartmouth College's radio station (TF).
1340 WWNH NH Madbury	- Religion, "Love 1340", nice little station, ought to move to 750, vacated by WHEB (TF).

**WROK**  
**WZOK**

NOLTE COMMUNICATIONS INC. • P.O. BOX 6186 • ROCKFORD, IL 61126

1350 KCHU MN New Prague  
 1370 KALN KS Iola  
 1370 KSUM MN Fairmont  
 1370 WFEA NH Manchester  
 1370 WDEF TN Chattanooga  
 1370 WVAO WV Moundsville  
 1370 KSHV WY Cheyenne  
 1370 WBTN VT Bennington  
 1390 WHMA AL Anniston  
 1390 KXMS MN White Park  
 1390 WEED NC Rocky Mount  
 1390 WSCE SC Charleston  
 1400 WIDE ME Biddeford  
 1400 WYKC MS Grenada  
 1400 WTSI NH Hanover  
 1400 WLTM NH Littleton  
 1430 WGFS GA Covington  
 1430 WRTH MO St Louis  
 1430 KTYN ND Minot  
 1440 KQRS MN Golden Valley - CHR (MP).  
 1450 KMMS MT Bozeman  
 1450 KZZU ND Rugby  
 1450 KBLM OR La Grange  
 1450 WTSI VT Brattleboro  
 1460 KDWX MN Hastings  
 1460 WQCR TN Huntington  
 1470 KHND ND Harvey  
 1480 WMXK MI Kentwood  
 1480 KAUS MN Austin  
 1480 KRAE WY Cheyenne  
 1490 WAJF AL Decatur  
 1490 WMLS GA Monroe  
 1490 WSIP KY Paintsville  
 1490 WLGW NH Lancaster  
 1510 KPBI MO Greenwood  
 1510 WPUT NY Brewster  
 1510 CJRS PQ Sherbrooke  
 1510 WAHT PA Annville  
 1510 WRKU SC Burnettown  
 1530 KKCM MN Shakopee  
 1540 WMYF NH Exeter  
 1550 KXTD NV Reno  
 1560 KCJJ IA Iowa City  
 1560 WWGM TN Nashville  
 1570 CFOR ON Orillia  
 1590 WABV SC Abbeville  
 1600 WKBJ TN Milton  
 1610 WMNF NH Franconia Notch - TIS for Franconia Notch and Cannon Mountain, also another TIS down on the Kankamancus Highway between Lincoln and Conway, NH.

A good column this time!!! Thank you! Stay aboard for the Dial Scans. Eric Bueneman begins with a dial scan for Gainesville, GA.

550 WDUN Gainesville - News/Talk/some AC, sports "AM 55-The Information Station.  
 1130 WLBA Gainesville - CWM "Great Country WLBA".  
 1210 WDGR Dahlonega - AC/CHR/Oldies.  
 1240 WGGA Gainesville - Nostalgia, CBS.  
 1330 WKZD Murrayville - CWM, "KZ-1330".  
 1460 WXEM Buford - Spanish CHR//WAOS-1600, Austell, "La Favorita".

Now Eric dial scans North Metro Atlanta...

610 WPIO Grayson - CWM "Stereo 610".  
 1080 WFTD Marietta - Light contemporary Christian, studios are inside the Roswell Street Baptist Church.  
 1170 WHNE Cumming - CWM, WSB - TV News at 1800.  
 1270 WYXC Cartersville - Live assist ("look, Ma, no satellite!!") CWM, "Wixie 1270".  
 1290 WCHK Canton - CWM//FM "K-105" occasionally, "AM-1290" when separate.  
 1400 WAZX Alpharetta - Spanish, "Radio Exitos".  
 1450 WBHF Cartersville - SMN AC, live local features.  
 1500 WDPC Dallas - CWM/Southern Gospel.



1550 WYNX Smyrna  
 1600 WAOS Austell

- Contemporary Christian.  
 - CHR, Spanish, //WXEM-1460.

Morris Sorensen brings us up the road a bit (beyond the limits of Atlanta's fine MARTA rapid transit lines) to dial scan Winnipeg....

580 CKY Winnipeg - Oldies "KY-58"  
 630 CKRC Winnipeg - CWM.  
 680 CJOB Winnipeg - Adult standards/talk.  
 810 CKUS Winnipeg - Ethnic/AC/MOR.  
 920 CFRY Portage la Prairie - CWM.  
 950 CFAM Altona - Classical/EZL/some ethnic.  
 990 CBW Winnipeg - CBC/Variety.  
 1050 CKSB Winnipeg - CBC/French.  
 1250 CHSM Steinbach - Variety/Winnipeg Blue Bombs football.  
 1290 CIFX Winnipeg - classic rock oldies, flagship station for the Winnipeg Blue Bombs.  
 1570 CKMW Morden - Winkler - CWM, and Toronto Blue Jays.

**CHIN**  
RADIO/TV INTERNATIONAL

And your editor dial scans Portland, ME.....

560 WGAN Portland - All talk.  
 870 WLAM Gorham - Satellite adult standards, full service including morning magazine 0500-0900 //WKZN, 1470, Lewiston.  
 900 WCLZ Brunswick - BRN Business News.  
 970 WYNZ Portland - Oldies//Y-101 on FM.  
 1310 WLOB Portland - Religion.  
 1440 WLPZ Portland - Rock//FM  
 1490 WPOR Portland - CWM //FM.

And last, your editor takes you down I-95 to the New Haven - Bridgeport, CT area.....

600 WICC Bridgeport - AC/Oldies, full service info, satellite talk after 1900, AF Net feed, Italian on Sunday AM.  
 690 WADS Ansonia - Portuguese.  
 960 WELI New Haven - Full service, AC, talk, and morning man Mark Roman has been there for over 25 years.  
 1220 WXCT Hamden - All Spanish.  
 1300 WAVZ New Haven - Adult standards, mostly satellite-fed.  
 1340 WNHC New Haven - Urban Contemporary, mostly automated.  
 1450 WCUM Bridgeport - Full service Spanish, "Radio Cumbro".  
 1500 WFIF Milford - Religion, gospel, some ethnic on weekends.  
 1530 WDJZ Bridgeport - The birthplace of MYL is now a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese programming relayed from 1490 in West Springfield, MA...

All for now except Al Holtz's wife, Jane advises that she heard that some AM station in Florida has formatted ALL CHRISTMAS MUSIC 365 days a year - more information when I get it. What a fine column you folks have produced. The entire NRC thanks you.

And as the DX season is fast coming upon us, do continue to support your FORMATS columns!

73's 72

### Facts About NRC's DX Audio Service

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## The 1991 Bridgeport Convention

by John Malicky; photos by Paul Swearingen

Finally it's here, the 1991 NRC Convention in Bridgeport(Clarksburg), West Virginia! One year after Pittsburgh, there will be no late arrivals on my part as in past conventions. Instead and as planned, I wind up a circuitous 300 mile eight station tour at WHAW-98 Weston, WV and arrive at our '91 NRC site, the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, this late Thursday eve. My first encounter is with members Ernest "Lefty" Cooper and Mike "the Sunshine Kid" Lantz discussing DX, other radio tidbits, and why the Metas have fallen into mediocrity! Soon making his presence is our host and star of this year's show Bill Swiger who later attempts to find a new member, Al Buckalew, from Tinseltown/Los Angeles as we will meet him tomorrow. Before the night is over, there's just a little more excitement. By accident while phoning home, I happen to catch sight of the small parade of women from dressing room to the hotel's club for the weekly ladies lingerie show. This was to be one of the NRC '91 scheduled events, but was cancelled for lack of interest-hi!

It's now 8 AM, Friday August 31, the humid foggy air begins to give way to the bright morning sun with the official start for Bridgeport '91 just a few hours away. Already I've planned a 5 station stop in and around Clarksburg beginning with WPDX-750/104.9. As mentioned in previous DX News, the coinciding 13th annual Italian Heritage Festival downtown is also taking shape. By chance, I find the WOBG-1400/105.7 booth and meet P/GM Bob Hilber and Roni Davis! Bob is pleased that I've arrived and has received my advance notice by postcard to visit his station. Just before noon, with studios on old route 50 east, I find their DJ Don Niles signing off his oldies show for the day. An avid FM(and parttime AM) DXer, Don and I enjoy lunch at his favorite Chinese restaurant (and mine now, too!) while he mentions of stopping by the convention during the next two days and may even consider joining our club!

By midafternoon with temperatures around 96 degrees (now we're cookin'-hi!), several of the members begin to arrive. First, it's Bill Townshend whose trip here took some time as he walked from Washington, D.C.-hi! Then my roommate and Pittsburgh(Verona) NRCer Chris Cuomo also checks in arriving via bus, not by foot! In Hospitality Room A, warm greetings are extended to Gaye and Jack Parks(Hamlet, NC's finest DXer and probably the only one, too!), Martin "aren't overseas luggage checkpoints great" Wishnewitz, Glenn Cooper, Frank Merrill, Charlotte and Kermit Geary, Chuck Rader, "Krazy" Ken Chatterton, and Corning, NY's Betty Lord. Early evening saw more visits from Paul "Mr. DX Quiz" Mount, George "Traveling Man" Greene, Warren Greenberg, Ernie "Captain Video" Wesolowski, Paul "no John, I won't type your convention summary" Swearingen (who sometimes is our DX News Editor), Jim Wallace(late of WWVA-1170 now with WV Public Radio and the Ohio State Buckeyes #1 fan!), Linda and John Bowker, and Bruce "you'll never believe what happened to me today" Conti. A fine crew indeed!

Returning to just before evening, three short and unrelated events are occurring with myself and Martin Wishnewitz, the Bowkers, and Bruce Conti. First with Martin and I, even with expected failure, we attempt to obtain station visits for the members for Saturday from WDTV TV 5 and WBQY TV 12. Adjacent to our hotel is the WDTV studios and microwave tower sending a signal to their main tower several miles south in Jane Lew, WV. Downtown at WBQY, we at least have a pleasant conversation with GM Gary Bowden who seems genuinely interested in our convention and hobby. Meanwhile, out "on the road again" are the Bowkers as John tunes in for clean static free airchecks. As their last known address was in Princeton Junction, NJ this past June, now it's wherever their huge RV with car takes them, soon in a few months to Sun "Retirementville" City, Florida. So if you happen to see man under a big oak tree in your neighborhood park with receivers, antennas, and wires, ask why and he'll respond, "well you do understand the hobby of collecting stamps...only I'm collecting radio signals/airchecks, now leave me alone!" Then you've met John-hi! Also on the road in the midday heat, literally burning up in his nearly overheated '84 Thunderbird, with only 180,000 miles on it, is Bruce Conti fast approaching Morgantown, WV on newly named I-79. However, soon at Fairmont on I-79, Bruce cools(?) off during an intense thunderstorm that's left several accidents before him. Welcome to West Virginia Bruce-hi!

As our first day winds down, NRC(designed as such by husband Bill!) Convention Secretary Brenda Swiger runs errands and makes the members feel at home, complete with the good china and place settings-hi! Meanwhile in uniform, Bridgeport H.S. football cheerleader and daughter Erin Swiger leads the group in a club cheer, "gimme an N.. gimme an R.. gimme a C, gimme an N.. R.C.!"

Early Saturday morning, August 31, more members now join the festivities. First, 4 new members are greeted. They are Karen and Hugh Montgomery of Bethel(Cincy), Ohio, Jim Wilhelm of nearby Fairmont, Rob Carlson of Vincent, Ohio, and William Via from Baltimore. Thanks for coming folks! Next of DX Audio Service fame, it's Fred Vobbe accompanied by wife Debbie and daughter Connie. Then yawns and stares(?) greet NRC Pres Mike and Sue Knitter as Mike's only real reason for being here was that he'd have a whole weekend off not answering the long-distance calls-hi!



Left - Fred Vobbe demonstrates the different properties of loop antennas as a four-foot loop looms in the foreground. Right - Krazy Ken Chatterton, foreground, appears rather placid during the technical talks!

Also making his yearly appearance all the way from New Zealand, the Kiwi man himself, Laurie Boyer! Even the doors stay open as the NRC's Swat Team checks in with Jerry "AM Switch/Hot 101 FM" Starr, Alan Merriman, and Ed "Pigeon Jones" Krejny. Outside, a sizable public gathering curiously watches as a strange red van, covered entirely with bumper stickers, pulls into the hotel parking lot. Why it must be Dave Whatmough! Finally, having met previously last year, is Ed McDonald of Morgantown. Though unaware of my WAJR-1440 visit in Morgantown on Tuesday past, Ed mentions his show, "Side Tracks," two hours of bluegrass music from 5-7 PM on Sundays over WAJR, will be pre-empted for Steelers football and moved to Labor Day Monday at 10 AM.

Soon two developments occur, one takes off, the other is shot down. First, too much of an exact schedule of no more than 15 written names with a 24 hour advance notice has caused cancellation of touring Clarksburg's 911 Center. However, Brenda Swiger and several of the wives/women leave at 10:30 AM for the Arts & Crafts Jubilee with a Civil War Renactment. Upon their return, Ernie Cooper's quip is that he planned to miss that trip because he already knew the outcome of the war-hi! Still, to pass the time, several members use their special '91 NRC 3-D Glasses(?) to view Ernie Wesolowski's 3 day old video of the WLW and VOA-Bethany transmitter sites in Hospitality Room B.

Promptly as scheduled at 1:30 PM also in Room B, the NRC Technical Talks begin with Professors (John) Bowker and (Fred)Vobbe with written exams to follow-hi! First, John starts with a short lecture and overhead pictures on the history of radio. Fred follows with a talk and demonstration on passive and active antennas. Without the use of batteries, passive ones shown were John's cheap Select-Antenna and Bill Swiger's 4 foot loop. Next were Fred's active homebuilt ferrite bar models. Fred mentions his new model will sell around \$180, then it will give way to a new design later. The third of the talks was John's interesting lecture on Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB. The basic premise is that DAB will eventually reproduce the sound quality like that of CDs and completely alter AM-FM broadcasting. Thus, within a local area and radius of 40-50 miles, 12 stations would share a single tower and transmitter, with a 2/1000 second pulse, to broadcast a clear, clean, and crisp signal. Though outside this radius, there would be a degradation of a complete signal dropout. Coming events for DAB include the Canadians transmitting via satellite by next year and later this month September in San Francisco, KOIT will test the system under the name "Project Acorn." By February 1992, all this will come together at the international radio conference in Spain. If signed by President Bush and put into action by the FCC, DAB could become reality by the year 2000! A radical change in the way we DX, too! Also, John pointed out many key issues are still there for the FCC to answer. They include what will be the frequency limitations as he mentions a 30 mHz plan for 98% of all broadcasters(currently AM has 1 mHz, FM 20 mHz), signal degradations, what will be the power limits, how will the U.S. manufacturing of receivers be handled, what channels will be set aside for educational programs, who will hold the license for a single transmitter, what will the costs be for broadcasters and consumers, and if there are satellite broadcasts who will hold the license for these. Stay tuned to your DX News!! Finally after a short break, Fred has returned with a discussion and demonstration on the construction and assembly of long-wire antennas. Distributing plastic insulators(dogbone and egg) that replaced porcelain, Fred also reveals an impact resistant spring insulator that would allow a wire to stretch and withstand heavy ice formations in winter. Its design was prompted after Fred's employer, WLIO-TV in Lima, Ohio, felt the brunt of an ice break through the roof this past year!

It's now 6 PM Saturday evening as Mike Knitter now addresses the membership with new and updated NRC Business. The topics include: membership is stable at 780 with 15-20 new members replacing the same number who drop out so the magic number of 800 is not yet in sight; the soon to be again in print "brand new and improved!" NRC Night Pattern is now being assembled by computer whiz and member Sam Tankersley of Glendale, AZ, so grab and send all those schematic and/or advertiser coverage maps to Sam today; the exciting and creative NRC DX Audio Service on cassette tape continues to grow so well coordinated by

Fred Vobbe that it shines over other bland blind services, putting a few out of business because they couldn't match the quality of ours, and causing "our feet to finally get in the door"(and someday kick it down!), with the popularity rising such that 60% of that membership being sighted; NRC Publications have reached into Europe via DXP in Finland so now those overseas members and other DX clubs can purchase items through DXP for a lesser cost; a confusing state, though somewhat amusing, is that NRC state of New York members must pay NY sales tax for books, etc. if ordering by mail through Mannsville, NY, but not on credit card orders through the NRC phone service in Wisconsin, while Wisconsin members are taxed the opposite; since the post office has decreed that all DX News be taped before mailing, a slow process on our side, all addresses must now have a nine digit zip so that they can be "bar coded" for faster delivery, though some DX News still arrive late to members(Alan Merriman, a D.C. postal employee offered his assistance to look into this); Chris Cuomo mentioned the idea of publishing a 60th anniversary NRC book for next year as Mike said there are still a few of the 50th ones left for sale(also on the topic of anniversaries, Mike and Sue will celebrate their 20th wedding dte October 2, so send those cards and letters!..and tomorrow Charlotte and Kermit Geary would celebrate their 50th and be presented a cake, though my apologies as my Pittsburgh '90 picture book mentioned last year was their 50th, well at least I mentioned it-hi!); and finally Rick Dau of Iowa, though he could not make Bridgeport, phoned in his '92 bid which was accepted, first for Davenport "Quad Cities", Iowa, then later changed by Mike to Des Moines(WHO Land) because of better airline connections. Afterwards and through tomorrow, "Krazy Ken"(though he's really very mild-hi!) Chatterton holds out his tin cup for purchase of the new NRC AM Logbook(\$15), FM Logbook(a much improved and better version for \$12), and Bill "DDDXD" Hale's new NRC Station Map Book(\$8).

Following the NRC Banquet in the Coal Room (with a coal stove to match-hi!), plus glimpses of the Pitt(34)-WUU(3) blowout in Morgantown, I now join everyone back at Room B for the "infamous" NRC Auction hosted by a pleasantly subdued and amusing presenter, Sue Knitter! As Sue knows, and Brenda Swiger and our new members will find out, why would anyone purchase most of this worthless junk? NRCers do!(it in the dark-hi!) My donations include 2 Bridgeport WDCI-104.1 (on as of June 29) cups, a WYTK-95.3 shirt and hat, 2 NRC Pittsburgh '90 pennants and books, and the leftover ham oriented gear that went unsold last year, but figuring that it would be bought by a gullible host(?) prompting Brenda to lock Bill out of the house if he bought anymore stuff! Prul Swearingen wanted to fly here on another auction item, the 1,900 exWREN-1250 bird, but had difficulty taking off-hi! Total for the bidding came out to \$233 which included my possible high of \$48.50 selectively snatching at the last second a much wanted WWA shirt (that I missed last year), an exaggerated comical version cloth map of the world according to New Zealanders(I wonder who brought that-hi!), an '89 M Street Radio Directory (sorry John Bowker!), and a large plastic "Majic 102.5" WBJQ banner from Chuck Rader, though he wouldn't say how he got it! However, the highlight of the bidding was our newest and youngest bidder, 5 year old Connie Vobbe, who along with daddy's help (and money!) is on her way to becoming a promising and gambling NRC Auction Bidder!

After the Sunday morning September 1 NRC Brunch back into a divided Coal Room (Hatifields on the left, McCloys on the right!), most members return to school, again, in Room B for Headmaster Paul Mount's challenging and fair NRC DX Quiz! As Ernie Wesolowski's video camera pans a room of mostly dumbfounded NRCers (mostly me!), Frank Merrill was busy attaining a high score of 67 and receiving 2 NRC stamps plus some expired NJ lottery tickets-hi! My only question concerning the procedure was, why couldn't Ernie show us more of Frank's test?! And now, congratulatory wishes go out to Paul and his "very DX understanding" fiancee, Carol, as next April 20th wedding bells will be ringing, and we're all invited, see you there!



**Left - Auctioneer Sue Knitter** invites convention-goers to take a piece of West Virginia home with them during the annual auction. Right - Dave Whatmough's "Magic Bus" is a rolling catalog of radio station bumper stickers.



**Left - The youngest NRC DX'er?** Daughter Connie Vobbe tries out the earphones for fit while father Fred gives beginning lessons in DX'ing. **Right - Convention hosts Brenda, Erin, and Bill Swiger** appear none the worse for wear during the last day of the Bridgeport '91 NRC Convention.

Following the quiz, Jerry Starr lays out an impressive sequence of several rapid snapshots of the demolition of exWFU-1390's 6 tower array from last month. Amazingly, as the last tower would not fall, Jerry had to pull it down-hill!

A break in activity and an afternoon of free time follows with just a short demonstration of Alan Merriman's phasing unit. This would now be a great opportunity to locate "golden treasure", the WMMN-920 3 tower array which I could not get to on Wednesday past. Embarking on this expedition with me is Bruce "Admiral Perry" Conti. Twenty miles up to Fairmont and southwest along route 19 to Monongah, we abandon car, climb a steep dirt road, sidestep the dangerous 4-wheel drive Mon Power drivers, traverse through DX graveyard(a real cemetery folks), and finally reach our destination! Within sight of member Jim Wilhelm's home(as the trek is no big deal to him-h!!), the 3 huge self-supporting towers are in a northeast alignment. Fighting back tears(of sweat, it was hot!!), we record this moment hopefully for our DX Audio Service members and place the official NRC Swat Team flag(of a pigeon!) atop the transmitter building! This was our own version of a NRC Scavenger Hunt, though without prizes, but knowing, who else would want to spend a beautiful Sunday afternoon doing this?!

Later as the Italian Heritage Festival begins to wind down, so does NRC '91. Early evening finds new arrivals Ruth and Carroll Weyrich stopping by in Room A. If a young DXer were to evesdrop, they could listen in on the great amount of QSLs attained by Carroll, with 1,720 AMs, Ernie Cooper with an exact total of 5,000(4,381 AMs and 619 FMs), and the granddaddy of all, Kermit Geary with a whopping 6,120 AMs, 115 Cuban! Meanwhile, my time is spent with Mike Knitter picking his brain on current NRC procedures and his "wallet-h!"

Our final scheduled event at Bill Swiger's residence(map not provided!) is a Sunday evening beverage session under a very colorful sunset turning into an overflowing starlit sky! These are the only real highlights as 16 members find no real catches on Alan Merriam's Kenwood F-5000 and MWDX-4A phasing unit. Bill tries to holster the DXing with his HQ-180A, but still no results. The activity is there in the nulls, but not enough to overpower the regular night locals. Later, some of us view Bill's downstairs hamshack.

A warm Monday morning September 2 at 10 AM saw many members begin to depart as I'm off to run a 5K(3.1 mile) "Great Duck Race" in Clarksburg's Riverbend Park. Arriving back at the hotel, there is one last surprise, a visit from member Harley DeLeurere from nearby Hendricks, WV! Meeting for the first time ever, Harley and family were on a 3 week trip to Indiana, Wisconsin, and Canada. Upon returning home, Harley made time to squeeze short visit in today. As I am most appreciative for Harley's written directions for several of my WV station visits, I was glad you came sir, even for a short time!

At 1:45 PM, it's a short 100 mile trip home for Chris Cuomo and I bidding goodbye to another NRC Convention, Bridgeport '91! Many thanks to our host Bill Swiger, wife Brenda, and daughter Erin. 37 members convened and 49 people total enjoyed the company of each other. Hope to see many more of you next year at NRC '92 in Des Moines!!

Attending Bridgeport '91 were Buckalew, CA; Townshend, DX; Lantz, FL; Merrill, IL; Swearingen, KS; Via, Weyrich, MD; E. Gooper, G. Cooper, Greenberg, MA; Wesolowski, NE; Conti, NH; Mount, MJ; Chatterton, Lord, Rader, Wishnewitz, NY; Carlslen, Greene, Krejny, Montgomery, Starr, Vobbe, Wallace, OH; Cuomo, Geary, Malicky, PA; Merriman, VA; DeLeurere, McDonald, Swiger, Wilhelm, WV; Knitter, WI; Whatmough, ON; Boyer, NZ, and Bowker, all over the U. S.!

The Answer Man

Got a question about radio? Send it to NRC's Answer Man: Russ Edmunds - 753 Valley Rd.  
- Blue Bell, PA 19422-2052. No question is a dumb question, and Russ will answer all, from  
basic to highly technical. Watch for the answer in DX News!

## The Drake R8 - A Quality Control Nightmare?

(Seldom before has any receiver like the Drake R8 caused such a stir since its release in early summer 1991.

First reports from *Monitoring Times* columnist Larry Magne were favorable; he merely grumbled a bit about unfriendly ergonomics for fat-fingered DX'ers. An early impression from an anonymous writer in the June 3 DXN merely listed specs provided by Drake, but Rob Keeney's review in the August 26 DXN was quite favorable, pointing out low background noise and, like Magne, pleasing audio quality, plus its low (under \$1,000) price.

NASWA's Guy Atkins sounded the first real warning notes in the August, 1991 *Journal of the North American Shortwave Association*, pointing out the flimsiness of the metal case. Other DX'ers began sending in reports to various journals, commenting favorably about the DX capability of this receiver but also pointing out various small problems in quality control. Although one can make a case for some DX'ers being pickier than others, accounting for diversity in reports on

### R-8 Impressions by John R. Tow

I have just had the good fortune of briefly comparing the new Drake R-8 receiver with a new Icom R-71A, a recent production stock JRC NRD-525, and my much modified NRD-525. The newest receiver, the R-8, is the first American made solid state receiver since Ten Tec's abortive attempt several years ago. R.L. Drake has previously produced two excellent and nearly affordable receivers, the SPR-4 and the R-7A. I have owned and used an SPR-4, but never an R-7A. National pride has made me regret the sale of my SPR-4 for some time.

An ex-student, Rick David (WC4Q), called me to tell me about his latest acquisition, the Drake R-8. He was concerned about the apparent distortion his receiver seemed to have on CW, his favorite mode (Rick still enjoys 20 meter mobile CW - he has a "bug" mounted in his car's center console!). His R-70 did not share the distortion, although its up was occasionally acting up. Rick had also borrowed a new R-71A from work for comparison. He asked me if I would help him evaluate the receivers! I jumped at the opportunity!

The R-8 is an attractive receiver. It would look good on your desk in the den or office. If you are accustomed to heavy receivers with strong cabinets to support accessories, you are in for a shock. The top and sides are formed in a U shape and constructed from a piece of aluminum about a gauge thicker than oven wrap! The flip down feet are very fragile looking plastic pieces unbefitting a receiver of this caliber. The top is easily removed to reveal, thankfully, a much heavier construction inside.

The front panel is thoughtfully arranged. The push buttons have a good rubberized feel, albeit a bit narrow. The main tuning knob is well made but small. The feel and mass are appropriate for spinning. The LCD readout is back-lit and not easily read unless viewed from directly in front of the receiver. Certain angles and strong side-lighting will make for difficult viewing. The S meter is an analog type.

The receiver's controls are a bit different. The push buttons are all dual function requiring a 'shift' button to be pressed before the secondary functions would be displayed or changed. The "SYNCHRO" button has an indicator light to show when it is on - not when it is in lock or not. The synchronous detector circuit will switch off whenever the received frequency is

changed. The tone control is concentric with the squelch control and seems to have little effect in normal listening. The internally mounted speaker is top notch in quality. Unfortunately, the cabinet does resonate and produces distortion. The audio output level is low when coupled to a RS Minimus 7. The output is apparently intended to drive 4 Ohm speakers. The external speaker is connected via a 1/4" phone jack and controlled by a back panel slide switch. The line output is quite high, like the NRD-525. The headphone jack will take a 1/4" stereo headphone plug, although the level is too low to drive the Koss HV-1A 'phones to anything but a low level (Again like the unmodified NRD-525!).

On to the back panel. The receiver has two coaxial inputs (SO-239's in place of the horrible RCA jacks used on so many previous Drakes!) and a Hi-Z input representing a good selection of inputs. The line cord must be permanently attached - I don't remember attaching it to the set. It is of the two circuit (no ground) type. The DC connections are conveniently located for battery operation (My choice!). A DB-9 connector for the RS-232C interface, mute connection, and timer connections are also present on the back panel. One definite oddity on the back panel is the label with the country of manufacture!

We opened Rick's radio to see if something was loose near the speaker and thus resonating with the CW chirps we were receiving. We noticed several interesting design features, but no loose items. The resonance was in the upper case. The speaker, as mentioned, is excellent and appears to be about 3" or so with a large magnet. To its left and forward, actually just behind the front panel, is where they decided to locate the power transformer. I do not like having 120 VAC just behind the front panel. The imported receivers have the edge here. The circuit boards visible from the top appear to be of above average quality with excellent quality components. A 2N5109 transistor with a heat sink attached can be seen at the rear of the main board. This transistor is normally used as a CATV wideband amplifier and is known for being nearly 'crunchproof' and is most likely the preamp stage in the R-8. The board had more diode switched input filters than I have seen in any HF receiver. Rick wanted me to hurry up and close the receiver up so we could continue our testing - with an external speaker, of course!

Functionally, the receiver has some well thought out default settings for the AGC and BW for each of the available modes. Unfortunately, as others have found and pointed out, it resets to those defaults whenever you change modes. Cycling through the bandwidths is also irritating to some. I could certainly live with those shortcomings. The notch filter is apparently an audio type instead of the usual Drake feature of a 50 kHz IF notch (a la the R-7A, R-4's, and SPR-4). The R-8's notch can apparently reduce a heterodyne, but the carrier meter doesn't budge. I did not test the scanning or channelizing features, however.

Operationally, the receiver is fun! It also sounds good! No boom boom bass a la the R-70&71A, NRD-515, etc. Little if any hiss (unlike the NRD-525!) is present. The receiver sounds quieter in the synchro mode, although this isn't born out in the low level tests. The synchronous detector doesn't always lock the first time it is engaged - a whooshing heterodyne can be heard while the PLL is trying to "lock". Once locked, the passband tuning can be adjusted to enhance one sideband over the other. Lock is lost once the frequency is altered. The synchronous detector permits near hi fi reception under most conditions. The preamp is easily defeated and a switchable attenuator is also provided.

The selectivities are well thought out for average listening. Critical DXers may want a 1 or 3 kHz range bandwidth. Since all of the selectivities are from a diode switched 8 pole 50 kHz LC filter, no changes are possible - no improvements or after market enhancements are probable! What you get is what you will have! Not bad choices for average SWLs and DXers, good choices for the ECSSB users, and decent selections for the utility monitors - just very permanent choices for all! The shape factor (SF) of the LC filters is quite good, but not equivalent to the ultimate selectivity provided by cascaded eight pole filters. The filters are all included - a definite plus when one considers the cost of "extra" filters today.

I connected the R-8, R-71A, and both NRD-525's via a 4-port hybrid coupler to an Alpha Delta sloper for comparison. The R-71A had some spurs at night on 49 and 19 meters with the pre-amp on. The other receivers were quiet - even with the R-8's preamp on. Weak 15 meter band signals were more readable on either the R-8 or the R-71A with their preamps on than the NRD's. The R-8 seemed to have the best AGC action with the modified NRD second. The audio was cleanest on the Drake and more crisp on the modified NRD. The stock NRD was much more irritating to listen to than the R-71A (I cannot stand that hiss!!). My familiarity with the modified NRD made it the easiest receiver to change from one mode to another. The R-8's resetting to default BW and AGC with mode change slows you down. Perhaps the memories would allow quicker changes - and comparisons. A longer use-test would reveal more operational shortcuts. Unfortunately, Rick had to pack up and head home (60+ miles) - and along with him went the R-8!

Which receiver is the best is the obvious question. The answer is simple - none! If you don't have a receiver in this price range, I would buy the Drake. The loss of the PBT on the late production Icoms (Our test sample, although new, was old stock - it had the PBT!) would take them out of my consideration. I would think twice about unloading a '525 or '71A merely to obtain an R-8 (or '535, for that matter!). Anything receivable on one receiver will be receivable on the others. I would consider the service life of the receiver in my choice. The '525 is the obvious choice here. Its construction is service-oriented, complete with built-in test equipment and modularization down to the front panel! The R-8, R-71A, '515, etc all share common large multifunction PC boards, a maintenance nightmare. The '525 permits easy fault isolation and remedy. A good example is in order.

During the tests, I found that in fact my receiver was malfunctioning on the higher frequencies. I had thought that 22 meters and up were dead this summer - they may have been less than optimum, but not dead. In comparing the receivers on Tahiti at 15,171 I found my '525 to be much weaker than the others - unless I bypass the front-end circuits ('PASS' mode), that is! I swapped HF Tune (CFL-205) PC boards between the two receivers and found that my receiver would once again function normally. Replacing the good board with an extender board and my original board, I was able to isolate the problem quickly. IC1, the 74LS145 decoder that drives the diode switches for the frontend preselectors, was holding Band 4 & 5 low. Replacing it with a socket and a new chip did not correct the fault. SMT bypasses C8 & C9 were reading low resistance (should be open ...), keeping Band 4 & 5 on. Replacing them with .01 uF 25 WV ceramics (Where can you find SMT caps on a Sunday?) and re-connecting my protective diodes in case the failures were RF-induced and my receiver was ready for service once again. Another comparison with the "good" board showed no difference in performance. Hooray for a sericeable product! Incidentally, JRC's excellent service manual for the NRD-525 indicates that IC1 should be checked when low sensitivity is noted in one band (pg '3-3). I wish I had read the troubleshooting section first ...

Will I purchase an R-8? I hope so. My financial situation at present will prevent any purchases of substance for some time to come (My current "hobby" is putting my youngest son through college!). I would not sell my NRD-525 to purchase one, however. When compared to the mid-seventies \$695 price of the spartan coverage SPR-4 or the early eighties price of \$1649 for the basic R-7A, the R-8 is a steal - and it is complete.

Drake R8 Receiver: Promising Or Fatally Flawed?

Dallas Lankford  
September 14, 1991

What should have been an enjoyable experience, trying out my new Drake R8 receiver, has turned into a giant headache.

After placing a phone order with Drake on August 30, I waited patiently for the R8 to arrive. I should have become suspicious when it did not show up a few days after Labor Day. But I did not. And again I should have become suspicious when I found a Fed Ex notice of attempted delivery at my home on September 11. There is no Fed Ex office in Ruston, so it was either take

time off from work and drive the 70 mile round trip to the Fed Ex office in Monroe, or take time off from work and wait for Fed Ex at home. I did the latter. When Fed Ex delivered the R8 about 10:30 on the morning of September 12 I should have taken a close look at the Fed Ex label on the box, but again I did not. When one orders a product from a company, one expects the product to be delivered directly to one. Only later as I was repacking the R8 to ship it back to Drake did I discover that "my" R8 had been shipped to someone in California, and that someone had shipped it to me. Clearly there is something terribly wrong in Drake's shipping department and with the procedures they follow. There is no way anyone in their right mind would accept delivery on a \$1000 piece of equipment from a third party when it was supposed to be shipped directly from Drake to the customer. As yet Drake has not explained how this unacceptable situation came about.

Since I had not yet noticed that "my" R8 had been in the hands of an unknown person or unknown persons in California, my evaluation of the R8 started on a promising note. I connected an amplified ferrite rod loop antenna and checked out the daytime MW band. No digital circuit or display noise! At least none unless you brought the loop within a few inches of the display. It seemed to be a winner for MW listeners. Actually I should mention that at first I thought previous reviews were wrong in this regard because I got quite a lot of display noise with the ferrite rod loop powered from an AC power supply. But when I switched over to a battery, all the display noise went away. Apparently some display noise couples through the power cords when using an AC power supply to power an amplified loop.

Next I switched over to my 2 foot balun loop. Gain was a bit low using the R8 50 ohm antenna input, so I switched over to the 500 ohm antenna input and found that gain was fine. This is not the fault of the R8. The U-310 amp gain for the circuit of my balun loop depends on the load it sees. I do wish that Drake had used an SO-239 or BNC connector for their 500 ohm antenna input instead of the quick release push-in terminals. I had to use a BNC to binding post adapter and two short lengths of wire to connect the loop coax output to the R8. But on the other hand, at least all of my high dynamic range loop amps will work directly with the R8.

After satisfying myself that the R8 emits little or no display noise in the MW band, I changed over to my noise reducing inverted L antenna to tune up and down the MW band looking for any anomalies. Right away I found one: a curious bagpipe-like het around 1590 KHz. What was it? Was it being emitted by the R8 and being picked up by the inverted L antenna, or was it due to some other cause. A quick check with an R-390A showed that it was not being emitted from the R8. Closer examination of the het on the R8 revealed it to be an image of my super local KRUS on 1490 KHz. Ugh! The image was actually about 1592 KHz, which indicated that the R8 50 KHz IF was not properly aligned. Next I connected a signal generator to the R8 and measured the image rejection at 700 KHz (image at 802 KHz) and at 1300 KHz (image at 1402 KHz). In both cases the image rejection was about 52 dB. Thus "my" R8 failed to meet Drake's image rejection spec of greater than 60 dB below 1.5 MHz.

I phoned the Drake people and was told that the problem was probably a defective 45 MHz crystal filter, and that they would be glad to have me return the R8 and fix the problem and return it to me. At first I agreed, but later changed my mind(as you will understand when you read the following). In my opinion Drake has the wrong policy with regard to defective equipment. I had purchased this R8 because of the 15 day money back guarantee. But what should one do when one discovers a serious problem with the R8 during the first hour of use? There is no way a customer should have to play "Fix It" with the Drake service department. A defective receiver should be replaced immediately by Drake, at no expense to the purchaser, and the 15 day money back policy started over with the second receiver.

Oh well, I thought, I'll play around with the R8 the rest of the day before I box it up and return it to Drake to be fixed. Next I decided to measure the image rejection above 1.5 MHz. Drake's spec for that is greater than 80 dB. I got 52 dB again. Disgusting! So I called them again to report this problem. They seemed to think that again it was the 45 MHz crystal filter. Hmmm. I don't understand how single problem, such as a defective 45 MHz crystal filter, can cause two wildly different departures from Drake's specs. Perhaps if Drake had provided a schematic with the R8 I could figure it out. That is another thing I don't like about these early R8 receivers. You don't get a schematic. Does that mean that the design is not fixed yet?

Anyway, I pressed onward with my evaluation of this ill R8. Maybe the dynamic range would be OK, thought I to myself. No such luck. The dynamic range measured 88 dB, at least 3 dB below Drake's spec of greater than 90 dB. Well, what about the 3rd order intercepts? The 20 KHz spacing 3rd order intercept almost made it at +5 dBm (Drake says greater than +5 dBm), but

the narrow (5 KHz spacing) 3rd order intercept could not be measured because of synthesizer phase noise. A bad situation was getting progressively worse.

I tried out the notch filter, but it did not seem to work at all with on-the-air hets. I switched over to two signal generators and generated a stable well-defined het with the two signal generators to see if I could get any insight into the notch filter problem. It appeared that the notch on "my" R8 was so narrow that it notched only an extremely narrow range of the het spectrum, and so it would not significantly reduce the het. All it did was change the tone of the het.

Oops. This story is getting out of order, which is, I suppose, appropriate for the "out of order" R8 I was sent. While I was measuring the SW image rejection, I was tapping the side of the case with my finger (I was annoyed). Accidentally I tapped one of the case mounting screws and noticed that it was loose. I inspected the other case mounting screws and discovered to my surprise that they all were loose. Even worse, one of them had been "roughed up" or "gorilla-ed" as I like to describe this kind of abuse. Someone had been inside "my" R8 and that someone did not know how to use a Phillips head screw driver correctly!!! My annoyance went up another order of magnitude.

What next? I decided to try out some headphones. The front panel headphone jack was defective. It was difficult to insert the headphone plug completely, and the headphone plug did not make positive contact with the headphone jack. The headphone jacks on the R8 (there are two of them, one on the front panel and one on the rear panel for an external speaker) are apparently plastic encapsulated PC board mounted variety, not the old fashioned (and sturdy) type. Had someone damaged the headphone jack, or was it merely defective? I don't know. The rear headphone jack also seemed defective. Audio output from the front panel headphone jack seemed inadequate. Audio output from the rear headphone jack (for an external speaker) was adequate. Perhaps this R8 has a defective audio amplifier.

Could anything else be wrong? Yep. On strong AM signals there was an annoying "click" as the 1 KHz digit changed.

And "my" R8 was afflicted with the same "rogue het" that afflicted Richard Eckman's R8. (Could Drake have sent me Richard Eckman's reject without fixing it?) On strong AM signals (I didn't check SSB or CW) there was a weak but very definite het which varied in frequency and amplitude. The rogue het was much more apparent when I used an unmodulated RF source, i.e., a signal generator.

To confirm that the problems I experienced with "my" R8 are not common to all R8 receivers, I phoned a well-known DXer who owns an R8. Although he could not confirm that his R8 met Drake's specs, he had not observed any symptoms of substandard image rejection. His R8 did not have a rogue het, or defective headphone jacks, or annoying click when the 1 KHz digit changed in AM mode, or gorilla-ed case mounting screw, or defective notch filter, and his R8 was not shipped to him from a third party.

There is absolutely no excuse for a \$1000 receiver to have so many problems. Many of these problems could be detected in a few minutes with some very simple tests by a competent technical sitting at the end of the production line. It appears that Drake doesn't test their R8 receivers at all. Or if they do, then either their test equipment is defective, or their technician is incompetent.

What can an R8 owner do if he thinks he may have a defective R8? If he has an R8 with a defective headphone jack, or a rogue het, or an annoying 1 KHz click in AM mode, or a notch filter that doesn't work, or gorilla-ed case mounting screws, then it is obvious that he has a problem and he should send it back to the Drake service department to be fixed. If he thinks he has image problems, he should try to verify it. One does not need a precision signal generator to measure the image specs. Just about any old signal generator will do. The R8 S-meter is reasonably linear in the sense that each S-unit up to S-9 corresponds to about 6 dB, and signal strength above S-9 is read in dB. I used a precision signal generator, and also precision 10:1 (20 dB) sealed attenuators to doubly confirm that the R8 S-meter is (or should be if it is operating correctly) accurate. Pick some frequency, say 2.000 MHz, adjust the signal generator to give a 40 dB over S-9 reading, and then tune the R8 to about 2.100 MHz. You should observe an image. If the image is not about S-2 or less, then you probably have a defective 45 MHz crystal filter or whatever the problem is which causes substandard image rejection. (At least Drake told me that the image spec failure indicates that the 45 MHz filter is defective. But since, according to Drake, the front end is varicap diode tuned, the image spec failure could also be due to front end tracking error, or perhaps some other cause.) Although measuring the dynamic range and 3rd order intercepts is not difficult, it requires two precision signal generators, and so is beyond the capabilities of most hobbyists.

I should add that the simple image test I described above will not give accurate results if your R8 S-meter is inaccurate. Here is a simple test which will give you some indication that your S-meter is OK. With an 80 foot inverted L antenna, 65 foot horizontal section about 20 feet above the ground or higher, and a 15 foot bare wire lead-in (no coax), at midday you should get about S-0 reading on a quiet day around 10 MHz with no signal tuned, just background noise. Unfortunately, in urban areas you may get several S-units of man-made noise. Then at night you should get about 60 dB readings from a few super-strong 6 MHz (49 meter band) or 9 MHz (31 meter band) SW AM broadcasters. If you use a considerably longer antenna, or a different antenna, this simple S-meter test will not be reliable.

My advice to prospective R8 purchasers is caveat emptor, i.e., let the buyer beware. Most customers will not have an electronics laboratory in their home, like I do, and most will not have access to and ability to use the test equipment at an electrical engineering laboratory, like I do. If Drake offers to send me another R8 for evaluation on their 15 day money back guarantee policy, I will probably take them up on their offer. It is really a pity that they sent me a lemon, a fatally flawed R8.

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